

SPOT-ON STURROCK

Bedford ... 3 Wycombe Wand ... 3

ANGER flared as Bedford scraped a second replay in their FA Cup-tie against the amateurs of Wycombe Wanderers last night. A fiercely disputed penalty award by Guildford referee Mervyn Sinclair came with only three minutes of extra time remaining, and David Sturrock stroked home the equaliser.

Between the referee's decision and the goal came a period of complete chaos. The referee was jostled both by Wycombe players and hordes of their invading supporters.

Afterwards centre-half Ian Rundle, who had been judged to have handled a ball he was trying to chest down, sat in tears in the Isthmian Leaguers dressing room.

Snapped Wanderers secretary Tom Hayter: "This was an incredible decision. I was astounded, particularly as Mr. Sinclair had refereed so well throughout."

The referee needed an escort of officials and police as he left the field.

The amateurs won a toss for the venue for the second replay, which now takes place on their ground on Saturday.

HEAVY

Southern League Bedford could have sewn this match up in the first half-hour. But their close-passing always came unstuck on the heavy ground which had grass only on the wings.

Sturrock scored the only goal of the first half.

Paul Bates equalised with a free kick in the 53rd minute and Tony Horseman scored his 35th goal of the season to put Wycombe ahead, in the 80th minute.

Bedford levelled within 30 seconds when left back Dave Skinn headed home a Sturrock corner.

In extra time Les Merrick drew out Alan Collier and scored the goal which seemed to have given Wanderers victory.

Bedford T 3, Wycombe W 3
(after extra time)

FIGHTING AMATEURS
Wycombe Wanderers were robbed of victory in this first-round FA Cup replay at Bedford last night by a penalty goal two minutes from the end of extra-time.

Ian Rundle, a fine stopper centre-half, handled and Sturrock scored from the spot.

Angry Wycombe supporters surrounded referee Sinclair, of Guildford, at the end . . . and he was escorted from the pitch by Bedford chairman George Senior and manager Ron Burgess.

Scrappy play

Only goal of a scrappy first-half came from Sturrock, but Wycombe equalised in the 53rd minute through Bates.

Wycombe went ahead through Horseman, but a minute later Skinn had Bedford level again.

Winger Merrick shot Wycombe in front again in the first period of extra-time, then came Sturrock's penalty. The second replay will be at Wycombe on Saturday.